

Force from 19 nations leaves for India, Ceylon, Malaysia and Australasia

A MORAL RE-ARMAMENT force of 93 people from 19 countries left London Airport by Air India Charter for Bombay on Thursday, 30 October. It is the start of a year's campaign in India, Ceylon and countries of South East Asia and the Pacific including Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

In the plane was the cast of the European musical revue *Anything to Declare?* which has been performed in six countries of Europe during the last two years. Earlier this year it was given in the West End of London and in Northern Ireland. The theme of this revue is that a morally re-armed Europe could offer Asia an example of teamwork which could prove a fresh factor for all continents.

Astonished

The cast have been invited to India by Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and Chief Editor of the Bombay weekly *Himmat*. He says, 'Indians are astonished at the fact that in this force, Europeans from different countries and from different backgrounds are solidly united. They believe that a demonstration of European unity in the cause of a new world will help

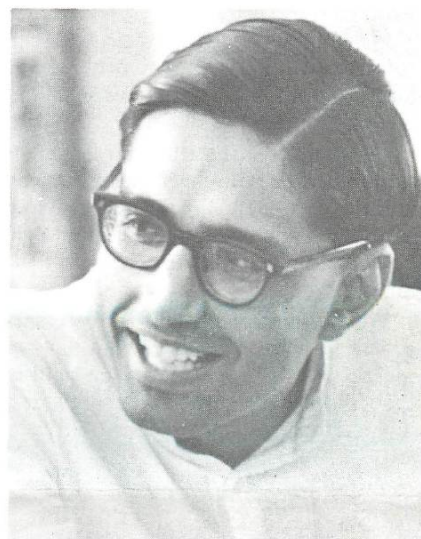
Indians who are deeply divided amongst themselves to find the healing to their internal bitterness.'

None of those going receives any salary for their work. Many have given up university places, jobs and savings to take part. During the last months they have been raising the estimated £100,000 needed for the year's action. Thousands of people from all over Europe have contributed.

The cast have just completed rehearsals with Henry Cass, the British producer, at the MRA Conference Centre in Caux, Switzerland, where the show was created in 1967. Mr Cass, who was chosen by Bernard Shaw to stage his plays, has produced Shakespeare in Britain's best theatres and is now resident producer at the Westminster Theatre, London.

The cast includes Michel Orphelin, French variety artist and specialist in mime who has appeared in more than 70 television programmes, and Sylvie Haller from Switzerland who won a national TV talent contest. The musical director is Miss Penelope Thwaites who took first class honours at the Melbourne University Conservatorium.

Accompanying the cast are men and



Rajmohan Gandhi

photo Channer

women from public life including James Dickson, Chamberlain to the King of Sweden, trade unionists, businessmen and educationalists.

The Asian Premiere of *Anything to Declare?* will be on the 14 November in Bombay where the revue will be given for a month to be followed by performances in India's capital, New Delhi, and other major cities.

Derry leader's hope for Ulster

SPEAKING in London last weekend, Patrick Docherty, Vice-Chairman of the Derry Defence Committee, said the situation in Northern Ireland could only be solved without violence.

'We can save the situation in Northern Ireland,' he said. 'We must all get down to basic principles and see in every individual, Catholic or Protestant, the image of God Himself. This message of Moral Re-Armament has been received by many people and has been important for me personally.'

'I oppose the method of solving problems with bombs and bullets,'

Docherty told an MRA international conference at the Westminster Theatre. 'I am against violence because it only creates worse problems. The situation can only be solved by the involvement of everyone in the social and economic problems of the community.'

'I say to the politicians who have left their entrenched positions 'God Speed'.'

He spoke of his apprehension when the British Army arrived in Derry. But, as events proved, the Army brought sanity and 'corked the bottle'.

Patrick Docherty photo Strong



Who they are and what they say

Michel Orphelin, *France*

I learnt to sing with a teacher of German origin. I studied mime under a Christian Jew who originally came from Russia, and who had himself been trained by Etienne Decroux, teacher of Marcel Marceau. I am married. My wife comes from the East of France, from Lorraine, the country of Joan of Arc. She is a violinist. We have two children, a son and a daughter. When we are not living in a suitcase, we live in Paris!

Many artists hope that their work can contribute to the improvement of the human lot, to remaking the world. I am one of them.

I want to live the true revolution. It starts when we rediscover the inspiration of God, and obey Him. It frees us from *hate, greed and fear*. It can set the world ablaze and give all men everywhere the hope of a full life.

We must personally take the necessary practical steps of such a revolution—we must follow what we feel to be right at the bottom of our hearts—we must answer the challenge of life itself.



Russi Lala, Editor of 'Himmat' talks with Frances Cameron, co-producer of 'Anything to Declare?', and James Hore-Ruthven from Scotland *photo Strong*

That is why I decided in 1967, with the full support of my wife, to interrupt my professional career, to give all my time, without salary, to Moral Re-Armament. That is why we have left our garden, and our house in the country. That is why I have now left my wife and children behind to travel to Asia with this international show. My theatre, my house, my family is the world.

Michel Bielak, *France*

I want to take part in the work that Indians are already undertaking to make their country clean, united and strong, an example for other nations.

As a worker in the French steel industry, I want to meet Indian workers and exchange experiences.

I want to fight with those whose aim is to build a society on the solid pillars of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love which alone will enable the conquest of fear and compromise.

My friends amongst the workers who have helped me financially are intrigued by my journey to India and are eagerly looking forward to first news of the results.

Frances Cameron, *Britain*

My grandfather was Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University. My father was born in India and spent his boyhood there. I grew up with stories from India. A few years ago I had the chance to spend several months working with Moral Re-Armament there and grew to love it myself. By profession I am an

actress, but my life, my money, time and what talent I possess, is given to this work of MRA.

One of the things that made me, as a westerner, most ashamed when I was in India was to see the kind of films that we export there. We have a permissive society in Britain. I am against it and I do not think we should sell it to, or force it on to other people. I have experienced in my own life an answer to bitterness and to hatred. We need plays and films that can give to people everywhere the hope of an answer to the deep divisions of our time. Maybe India, which has the third largest film industry in the world, using her art, tradition and skill could pioneer that purpose for this age.

Robert Carmichael *former President of the French Jute Industry*

In the field of the Economy—the importance of which is increasing constantly in the world—I do feel that neither the capitalist system as it is lived in Europe or the USA, nor the Communist system as it is lived in Russia or China, will be able to sponsor the fundamental changes which appear clearly necessary to satisfy the most urgent needs of the developing countries and the desires of people of the developed countries to find a more satisfying life.

I am now fully convinced that applying the principles of MRA and seeking God's guidance in every field of life is the only way to bring a more satisfying life to the world.

Further articles page 5



Robert Carmichael (extreme right) meets jute workers in the home of Sibnath Banerjee (extreme left), President of the Indian Jute Workers Union *photo Leggat*

God's continuing strategy for Asia

BY R M LALA

Last November I was in Ceylon with a Moral Re-Armament force from thirteen nations. In our party was Daw Nyein Tha, one of the great ladies of Burma, who had worked with Moral Re-Armament since 1926. She said that our presence in Ceylon, the miracles at the MRA conference centre in Panchgani in India were all part of 'God's continuing strategy for Asia'.

AS THE CAST OF *Anything to Declare* leaves for Asia, I see it not as an isolated move, but as part of God's continuing strategy for a continent.

The force goes to India, Ceylon and Malaysia on the Asian mainland, later on to Australia and New Zealand. India, Ceylon and Malaysia have many similarities between them and contrasts. They represent the three great faiths of Asia. India is predominantly Hindu. Ceylon is predominantly Buddhist and Malaysia is a 'secular Islamic state'. At the same time in each of these lands, the Christian community plays an influential part. Not many know that Christianity came to India before it came to Britain. And the man bringing it was the Apostle St Thomas.

All three lands are fascinating countries. Once ruled by Britain, English law, English language, English justice is much in evidence. At the same time they have their own distinctive traits of their age old civilisation. All three lands have maintained democracy in spite of great difficulties. They all have communal problems. India, trouble between the Hindus and the Muslims resulted in 500 deaths in one state of Western India. The brutality of these Gujarat riots, where some people were reported to have been burned alive, has shaken the conscience of India. Indians recognize that in spite of their important achievement since independence, the country is in dire need of an answer to division and to the hate, fear and suspicion that creates the riots. That is why it is important that those who go to India have an answer to these problems in their own lives.

In Ceylon too, the communities are divided. There are 10 million Sinhala-speaking and 2 million Tamil-speaking. In 1959 they had serious riots. Last year at a Moral Re-Armament assembly in Jaffna, in the north of Ceylon, there was a considerable impact when a Sinhalese apologized for his pride and arrogance and a Tamil journalist responded. When a few weeks later I met the Prime Minister of Ceylon, he was interested in what had happened and saw in MRA a new factor for unity between all his peoples.

In Malaysia the Muslim and the Chinese races are fairly equal in number to each other, with the 800,000 Indians holding the balance. The very serious communal riots last May, according to the Prime Minister, were fostered by outside agencies. It is significant that at the MRA conference in Panchgani last month, two of the top political leaders of the Malay and the Chinese people were present.

The future

The great need in Asian countries, is unity within the different elements in each nation and also unity between the nations. The need for unity between nations was not felt when a power like Britain controlled the high seas and ruled the lands during its height of power. Now with Britain's total withdrawal by 1971 from east of Suez and the impending American withdrawal from Vietnam, Asian statesmen have recognized the urgency of unity amongst themselves. There is talk nowadays of the power vacuum in the Indian Ocean area. Who is going to fill it? Will it be Russia or China? Or is it going to be the morally rearmed nations of Asia?

At a crucial time in Asia's history, MRA has played a major role in creating unity between South Korea and Japan, as well as between Japan and the Philippines. It was on a MRA platform in 1955 that a Supreme Advisor to the Japanese Government,



Niro Hoshijima, Supreme Advisor to the Japanese Government, apologises to the Koreans, including the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Korean Parliament, for the wrongs done by his country

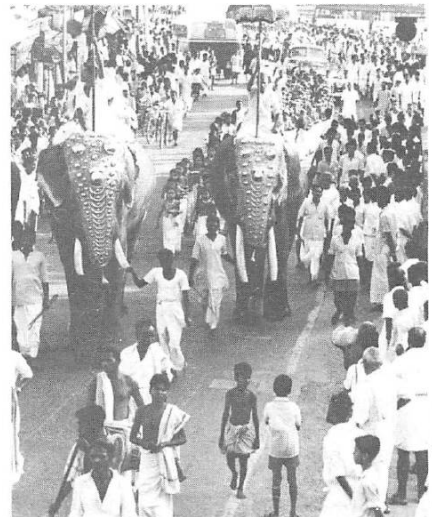


photo Channer

Four thousand three hundred mile March Across India led by Rajmohan Gandhi

on behalf of his nation, apologized to the Filipinos. A couple of years later, the then Prime Minister Kishi, inspired by the spirit of Moral Re-Armament, went to seven nations of Asia apologising for what Japan had done in the war. God means such miracles to be multiplied not tenfold but a hundredfold in the coming months, because God means the Asian nations to work together.

Both India and Australia have a strategic part to play in Asian security. In a recent statement on India, the Defence Correspondent of *The Times* says that the most powerful Asian nation is India. At present India, however, is reluctant to use its authority for the security of the whole area, in spite of the eagerness of certain nations like Malaysia and Singapore that she does so.

Soviet Union is playing on the Australian fears of China, that China wants the wide, empty spaces of Australia as a home for a large population. I am grateful that Kim Beazley, the Labour spokesman on Australian policy, has clarified in the Australian Parliament that the facts are that China is not coming south, but pressing north towards Russia, much to her discomfort and it will be a mistake to try to offset Chinese influence in the area by inviting the Russians.

The best statement to come out of that region is by President Suharto of Indonesia, who said categorically that Asia wants neither Russia nor China to predominate the area and that it is for the nations of the region to fill the

Continued on page 4

A revolutionary in Asia

By Daw Nyein Tha of Burma, writing 1957

WE CAN OFFER YOU bugs and insects, mosquitoes and snakes, heat and rain, dust and dirt, all the diseases you can think of, together with all our gratitude and open hearts.

We cannot offer you any money or financial assistance nor food you are used to. But we will offer you the best we have. We will move out of our rooms to give you ours, the best food we have, with all the glorious fruit to go with it.

People will watch you 24 hours a day to see how you take things, accept things and react to them. They will be suspicious of you. They will laugh at you and with you. There will be no privacy, neither day nor night. And you will have to be disciplined about food and clothing, water and sun. You will be lonesome. You will be away from your family and people who you

consider your friends. But you will have the glorious fellowship of the Lord constantly.

You will be in tight spots when you have nowhere to turn. That will give you a chance of depending only on the Lord. You will make a lot of mistakes. But the Lord will use them if you are willing to learn from them. You will not be able to run back 'home' just because someone is sick, or because you have been away a long time, but go only when God tells you to go. Every move will have to be decided on the basis of what God wants without any demand that anything happens to anyone, anywhere, any time.

You don't have to know anything, or be anything. The one thing we ask of you is that your motive for living be obedience to the living God. We need



Daw Nyein Tha

your open heart that is not too proud to keep clean nor too soft to learn how to care.

We can promise you everything that is hard and difficult and heartbreaking. Your sweat and tears will flow like Niagara. However we can promise you that just as the Niagara waters give light and power to millions, your victory will be measured in terms of turning the tide of history in fellowship with half the human race. And your only reward will be the deep conviction that you are obeying the Lord.

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gap. Few statesmen have fixed policies in the Indian Ocean area, and while the situation is in a state of flux, there is an opportunity to give statesmen the secret of God's direction for their lives and nations.

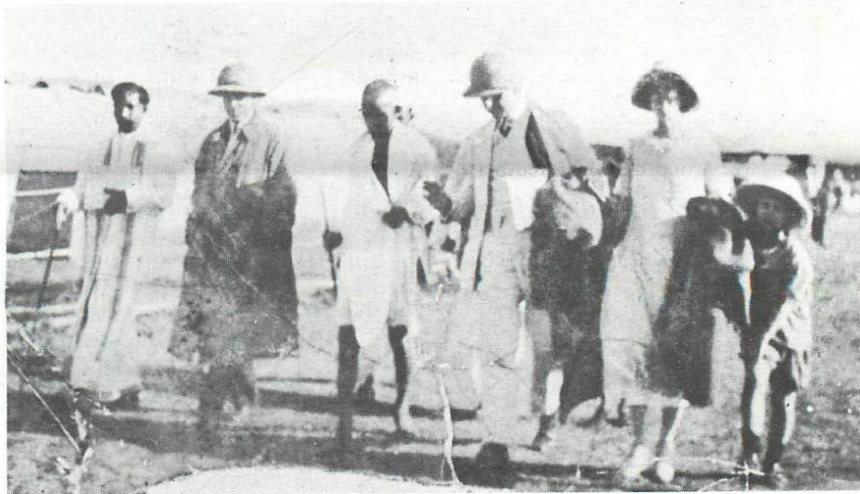
It is not accidental that when Dr Frank Buchman went on his first visit to Asia in 1915, he was led to meet Sun Yat Sen, founder of the Chinese Republic, Shibusawa, founder of modern industry in Japan and Mahatma Gandhi, father of the Indian nation. It is Gandhi's grandson who has now invited this force to India.

In 1917, Frank Buchman met Miss Katie Woo, a Chinese headmistress. Now, 80 years old, Miss Woo has invited the force to come to Hong Kong, giving Moral Re-Armament a chance to effect the immense world of the Chinese-speaking peoples.

In 1921, Dr Buchman met Captain Loudon Hamilton, and the meetings in his rooms in Oxford marked the beginning of the Oxford Group, later Moral Re-Armament. This week he accompanied the MRA force to Asia.

Before and after the second world war, a civil servant, Lionel Jardine and a former professor, Roger Hicks and others continued the work of MRA in India. In 1952-53, Dr Frank Buchman was invited by the leadership of India and Pakistan and Ceylon to visit their lands. One of the inviters was Dudley Senanayake, who is once again Ceylon's Prime Minister.

In 1963, Rajmohan Gandhi launched a 4,300 mile march across India which



Dr Buchman walks with Mahatma Gandhi (centre)

was an amazing experience for all who participated. It showed that the peoples of India wanted MRA. Fourteen training camps were held in various parts until the conference centre at Panchgani was opened in 1968. In 1966, the play *Sing-Out Australia* came with a force of 53 from New Zealand and Australia. For the first time, not the Government but the people of Australia took the initiative to build bridges between Australia and Asia. It was an affirmation that their future lay with the Asian continent.

Blessing them on their journey, Paul Hasluck, then Minister of External Affairs, now Governor-General, said, 'Technical assistance, government conferences and negotiations are all necessary but are not by themselves enough. Human warmth and understanding are

necessary. If there's anything you can do that governments cannot do, it is in that field.

'You have got it right. It is people that matter. Yours is a venture by people to meet people. It is because I value that above all other activities that I wish you success.'

The conferences at the Panchgani centre have, I think, made a permanent difference to the stability of India's strategic North East. In less than two years since its opening, task forces of MRA have gone to Ethiopia, Ceylon and other lands. As one looks back one sees a pattern in the development of Moral Re-Armament and as one looks forward one sees the promise that God's hand is love and His miracle working power will operate at the heart of nations through men obedient to Him.

Who they are, continued

Anton Pedersen, Denmark

Like many of the youth of Denmark, I was looking for excitement in life. I was a horticulturalist, a student and a pop singer. I had also started taking drugs.

Two of my friends who were doing much the same things, hitch-hiked to India, hoping to find a more satisfying life in the society there. Shortly afterwards, one of them died from an infection caused by a dirty LSD needle. The other returned home seriously ill.

Meeting MRA, I saw that my approach to life was irrelevant. How could I hope to achieve peace and justice in the world, when I was not ready to pay the price in my own life? I decided to be part of the cure instead of the disease and to make a new beginning.

I have come to Asia because I believe that Denmark's biggest task in the world is to export the new type of man.

Joyce Kneale, Britain

British teachers have been going abroad for a long time. Their reasons for going have been as varied as the weather, better salaries, adventure, experience and occasionally to serve the people of other lands.

Millions are putting their faith in education today. Yet something must be missing. Violence in college campuses, student strikes have hit newspaper headlines across the world.

Rajmohan Gandhi wrote us, 'There are at least one hundred million children in India. Many of them are starved of enough food. Nearly all are starved of hope and a purpose to live for. There is a serious shortage if not a total absence of films, stories, plays and books which teach them qualities of unselfishness and care for one another in an interesting manner.'

In Europe we are grappling with the same problem. The hearts of more and more of us are being stirred to tackle the matter on a world scale.

Bitterness and class war in Britain is undermining our country and education system. I have been part of this, resenting anyone who appeared to have advantages over me. It took God and a determined decision to cure this which thirteen years at school had not touched. It helped me understand that the issue is not the school system, but whether educators and administrators will be led by God or pushed by man.

Six of us travelling with this force are

teachers from Europe—one a headmistress who has taken a year's leave of absence. None of us will receive a salary, and we are able to go only because of the sacrifice of many colleagues. Perhaps soon our governments will see fit to finance such a programme, for the day must come when every young person will be educated to take his part in creating a new world.

Robert Wood, Britain

I owe a lot to Asia. It was an Asian who put it to me to use my life to bring a fundamental change to society. Till then I was sure I knew best what was best for me. I was determined to become the greatest professor of languages Aberdeen had ever seen.

Then at Caux one day, I sat down beside a young Vietnamese and started questioning him about the situation in his country. I discovered he had family on both sides of the war and brothers fighting in both armies. My questioning over, he asked me, 'What is your aim in life?' I told him what I had in mind.

He answered, 'The only thing that will help Vietnam are people who have answers in their lives to the selfishness, hatred and corruption that have caused our problems. Unless we get people like that, Vietnam will go on for ever. Tomorrow my family may not only be involved, tomorrow they may die. Is that what you want?'

For the first time I realised I was as responsible as anyone else for what was wrong in the world because I did nothing about it. I saw also that if I did care at all for him, for Vietnam, or similar situations in the world, the least I could do was to live an answer to the things he had talked about and give it to everyone I met.

Since then, that has been my programme in Britain and other parts of Europe. In my opinion MRA gives back to the ordinary man his chance to do something about the situation in the world, and I want to have a part in it.

Anne Almond, USA

As an American who has been living in the Middle East for several years, I have begun to see that America has a lot to learn from Asia. We need to learn how to work with people from other countries, not on a basis of who is richer, or wiser, but on a basis of moral standards and God's direction.

I graduated from university in Lebanon last June and had planned to begin teaching there this fall. However,



Mrs Keziah Fashina, former Lagos City Councillor, is a member of the 19 nation force now in Asia *photo Franzon*

I feel the need for this new kind of teamwork is so urgent that I decided not to teach this year, but rather to come and work with people from Asia to build up together an international force determined to change what is wrong in the world. For me, that starts with change where I have been wrong. This is the only way we can build the kind of world that everyone wants to see.

£100,000 budget

WE RECEIVE NO SALARY. Like all the work of Moral Re-Armament, this force is financed by gifts great and small from those who feel the urgent need for a Moral Re-Armament of men and nations. We are responsible, together, for finding the estimated £100,000 that a force of 90 will need in Asia and Australasia for a year. Two-thirds of this total has been raised in cash and promises. Many of those going have sacrificed studies and jobs to be available, and sold cars and valued possessions, given legacies and savings to raise their fares.

Thousands of others have given sacrificially: 230 people have helped towards one lady's fare. The parents of one of the cast have sold their car; an Indian student gave the money he had saved for a watch. An Italian MP has given one full fare. A Swedish school-girl has raised £250 towards our fares by raffling her best doll, holding a sale, and putting on a play. She is twelve. Many have given in kind—tropical clothes, material for costumes.

We go as representatives of thousands of Europeans who care, who want to have a stake in the future of Asia and the world, and we are united with them in our determination to build a better world for all. Our time, our comfort, our money count little against the privilege of this chance and challenge.

ANDREW STALLYBRASS

England, 'With it' or 'With God'

Saga of an English educated Ceylonese
by Devar Surya Sena O B E

'SIR JAMES was the Moses of our struggle for freedom, for he brought us in sight of the promised land.' So said the late S W R D Bandaranaike, Ceylon's Prime Minister in 1956.

At Cambridge, my father, Sir James Peiris, capped a double first in Law and Moral Sciences with being the first Asian to be elected President of the Cambridge Union in 1882. Among his close friends was Harold Cox who became an MP and edited the *Edinburgh Review*.

My father re-visited England with my mother. Sampling English family life at its best, they greatly admired the Christian values England stood for. Bringing their four children to England in 1908 for their education, they set up house in West Kensington. I went to Colet Court, Hammersmith, daily in a penny horse bus. Both here, and later at Tonbridge School, Kent, and at Cambridge my Christian faith was strained by experiences of colour prejudice. In spite of great kindness in the homes I stayed in, bitterness eventually won the battle in my heart.

While studying for the Bar, I met and married my wife, Nelun, who was an

accomplished musician. On return to Ceylon I practised at the Bar for three years.

A strong urge within to build understanding between East and West through music, led me to give up my career and collect the folk songs of Ceylon and North India.

During our successful concerts in England in the early 1930's I found that music could open hearts but not necessarily change them. I discovered at an Oxford House Party that only God could do that. If I wanted to build understanding between East and West, the place to begin was with myself. Where once I hated the white man, I learnt to forgive. For the past 35 years my wife and I have worked with our European friends on five continents for a morally re-armed world.

Coming to England again after some years I see trends towards a permissive society with sliding standards, pre-occupation with sex, empty churches, colour discrimination, denial of the Christian heritage which made England great. One notices a tendency to be 'with it'—whatever that may be. 'With it' or 'With God', which shall it be?

Is it not time that red blooded English patriots rose to fight more passionately for the eternal verities than those who are out to subvert them? They could mould public opinion by penetrating the press, radio, TV and films with values England has long proclaimed to the world.

We in Asia have admired certain sterling English qualities: The rugged independence of the Magna Carta Barons; the hatred of tyrants whether they be Charles I or Hitler; the heroism of the martyr Bishops or Nurse Cavell; the relentness campaign of Wilberforce to end the slave trade; the response to Churchill's call to 'blood, sweat and tears'; Keir Hardie's and John Lansbury's fight for labour led by God.

In Asian lands with burning faith and Christian love, your missionaries founded the schools that moulded the character of many of our leaders.

Shrinking inwards now, avoiding involvement in world affairs does not become a race of Empire builders. There is greater need now than ever in Asia and Africa of English men and women with the tempered steel of character and the secret of changing people. They can help us to cut out the cancer of corruption that is eating into our national life. They can work with us to heal our divisions so that we can be free to contribute our latent spiritual riches to the world.

A LIMB Margaret Gray, a seventeen year old schoolgirl writes from Newcastle upon Tyne

IF I were sitting in a boat and one of my limbs started paddling the whole boat would move. If I were drowning and three of my limbs were numb and

yet I put out one hand to grab a branch I could pull myself to safety. If there was unrest in a country—strife, permissiveness, corruption and greed, and the people felt they were sinking fast and needed something new that they could grip on to, body and soul, then surely that country could be saved. Britain is in a mess, we all agree—but she is not drowned yet!

The North East of England on Sunday, 19 October, decided to hold a conference to see how the North East could be a life-saving limb for Britain.

Mr Harry Addison of Newcastle, recently back from India, said that other countries, especially those in Asia, looked to Britain to give a moral leadership to the world, and not to become just a mini-minded island.

Two young Indians, Anju Chinai and Cedric Daniels, came to the Conference because they believed that Britain had such a part to play in the world. Anju

asked for 'More British thinking beyond Britain!'

Anne Rutter from Newcastle, feels that the North East has a part to play in the world. She is going to India at the invitation of Mr Rajmohan Gandhi to play her part. When asked how much she would be paid, she said that she would receive no salary and was raising her own fare. This is a North Easterner thinking beyond herself, her area, her country, to India and the world.

There were also people from Nigeria, Fife, Edinburgh, Cheshire, London and from many of the local towns. Mrs Keziah Fashina, a former councillor from Nigeria, came to Newcastle before going on to India.

The North East has built huge ships to carry food, fuel and people to other nations. It has mined deep into the coal seams to heat homes and to power machines. And so now the North East has a very new industry of building a new spirit that we can export in the hearts of people, not only to the rest of Britain, but to the rest of the world. This could be our greatest export yet.

